



Rooted in Community
World Relief Seattle, 2019

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Executive Summary 2019 | Published February 2020

Dear Friends of World Relief Seattle,

We are happy to tell you that we are still welcoming refugees to Seattle despite all the challenges we faced in 2019.

Very little about the last year has been normal. We've climbed very high mountains and walked together through very low valleys.

We celebrated 40 years of serving the refugee and immigrant communities in Western Washington. We celebrated in style—pulling off our very first Gala Fundraiser, called “We Belong”. We celebrated receiving 3 multi-year grants: two for Next Generation services & one for the Immigration Legal Clinic! We celebrated the beginning of our family literacy class. We celebrated the installation of community inspired rain gardens at Paradise Parking Plots. We celebrated as families were reunited—some after many years apart. We celebrated the naturalization of former refugees, who now have all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. And we celebrated the birth of babies to staff!

But the year was also filled with grief. Grief over a young man in our Asylee Resettlement program who was gunned down while going to play soccer, because of mistaken identity. Over 25 of our staff attended his funeral at an Eritrean church to mourn his loss. We grieved when two of our refugee staff were robbed at gunpoint, in our parking lot at 11AM

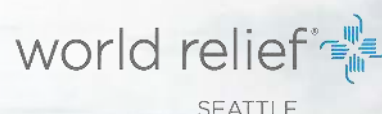
while taking a walk around the building. We grieved when our offices were broken into and donations of toys, backpacks and computers were stolen. We grieved at the new policies that more severely restrict the number of refugees allowed to come into our great country.

Valleys and mountains: life is full of them. What brings us comfort is the hope we draw from our faith, from partners like you, and from the courageous people we are privileged to serve.



Chitra Hanstad
Executive Director
World Relief Seattle

Background image courtesy of Karisa Keasey Art.



world relief
SEATTLE



Every refugee and immigrant...

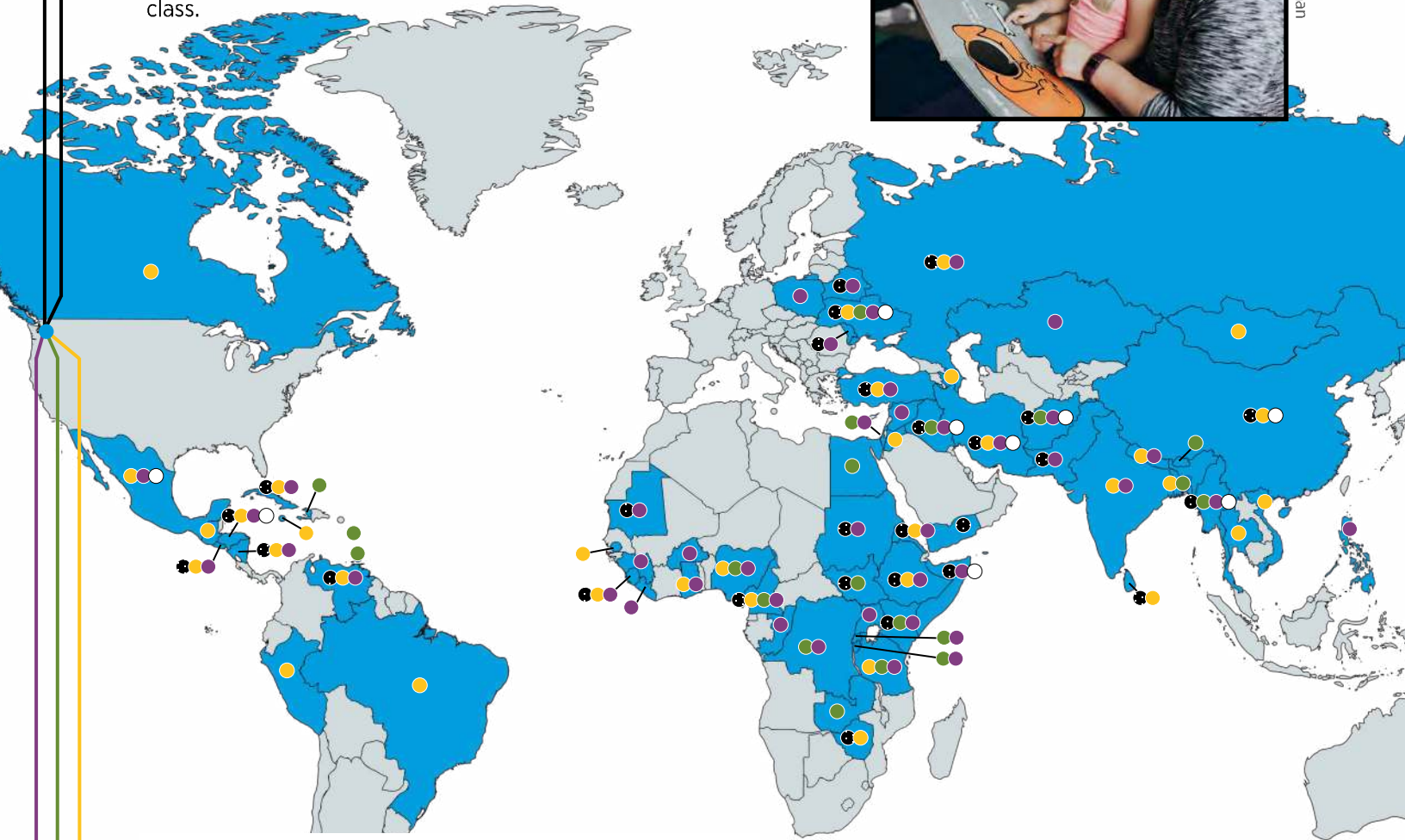
We have the pleasure of working with people from around the world, each of whom actively participates in creating a more welcoming community for all in Western Washington.

Here's a look at who came through our doors in 2019!

- We resettled 662 refugees and asylees from 28 countries.
- 110 kids from 9 countries participated in youth programming, such as Refugee Youth Summer Academy and family literacy class.



Photo: Laura Huyman



- World Relief volunteers served 212 people from 34 countries at the Welcome RV outside of the immigration detention center in Tacoma.

- 46 families from 22 countries grew healthy food at our community garden in Kent.

- Our Immigration Legal team helped 415 people from 42 countries access services like citizenship, green card applications, and family reunifications.

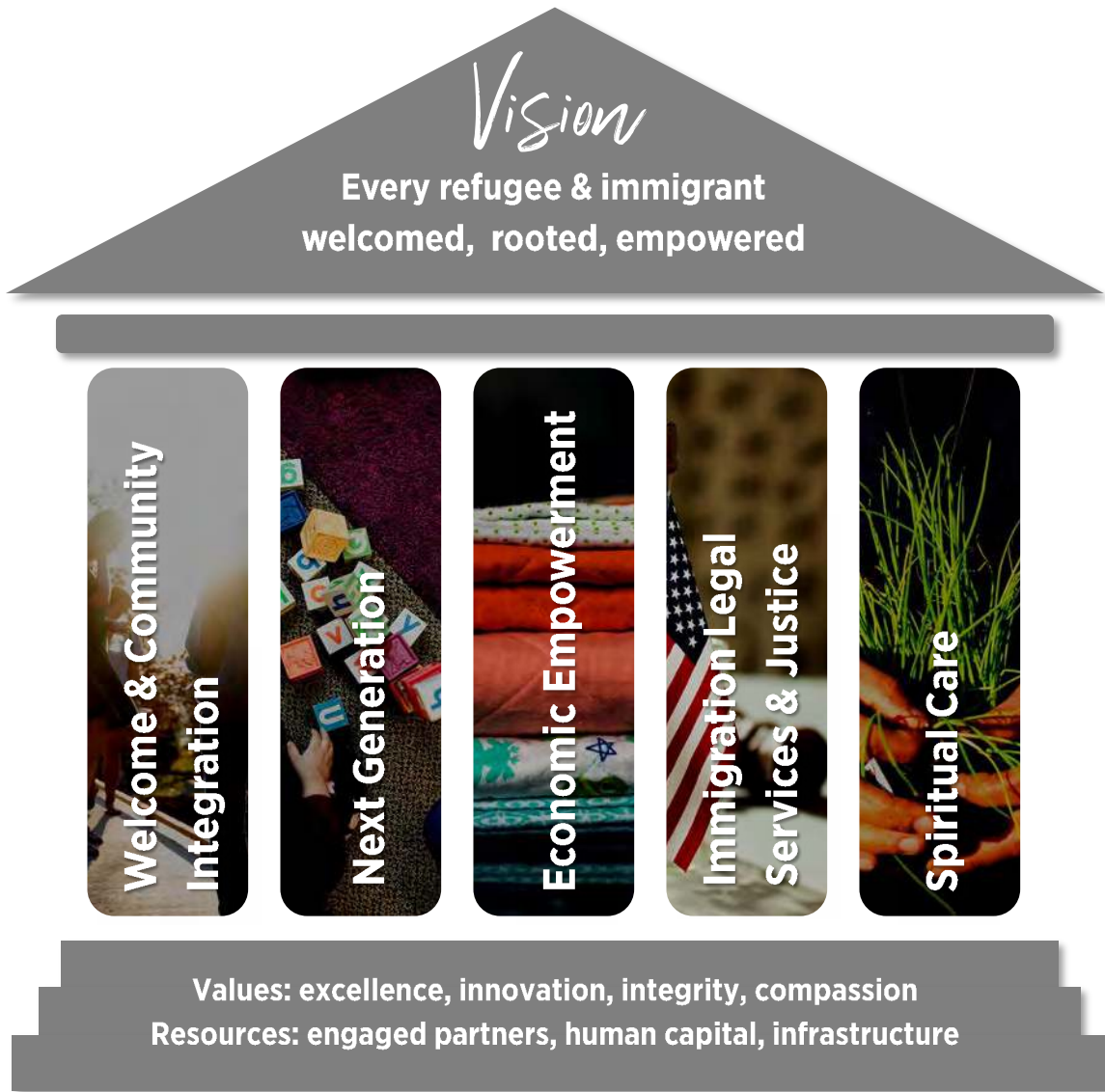


Photo: Esmeralda Manjarrez

...welcomed by community, rooted in community, and empowered for community.

One of our big accomplishments of the past year was the **completion of a strategic planning process**. The entire staff, the people we serve, and our core partners each had a role in shaping our plans and dreams for the next five years.

We chose the symbol of a home to represent our path forward: the roof represents our vision, the pillars symbolize our programmatic priorities, and the planks are the essential resources and values that serve as our foundation.



As we look toward the next 5 years, we are filled with hope and ambition to serve even more folks in vulnerable situations, to provide even more refugee and immigrant children with a head start in school, to provide even more people with quality legal services, and to give people economic opportunity through quality jobs and job creation!

Would you like an in-depth copy of our strategic plan? We would be happy to send it to you. We appreciate your thoughts, prayers, feedback, and financial partnership as we seek to achieve our extraordinary goals! Email infoseattle@wr.org or cut out and return the form on the back of this page to request your copy.

Fiscal Recap

World Relief's fiscal year runs from October through September.

revenue \$4,276,308

expense \$4,506,923



Federal funding has decreased dramatically in recent years, but we continue to see an increase in private funding. Private funding reserves prudently set aside in past years helped us to cover a deficit in expenses in FY 2019.

In a time of profound uncertainty and change in refugee programs nationally, the faithfulness of our community partners has allowed us—against all odds—to grow in many ways.

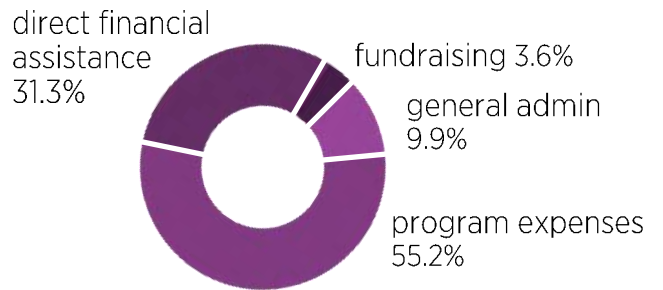
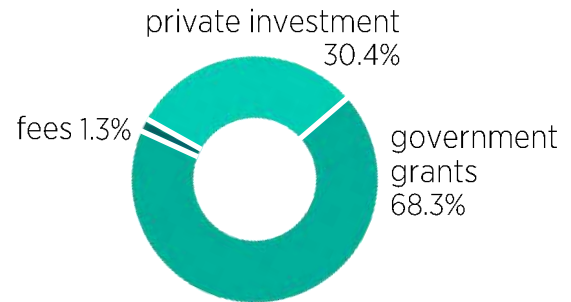


Photo: Yuichi Amano

Around 300 people—and a few vegetables!—turned out for our annual summer celebration in the garden.

More highlights from 2019

237 people got jobs at 139 companies.

64 English learners achieved a full level gain (gains in reading, writing, speaking, and listening) within just 6 weeks of classes.

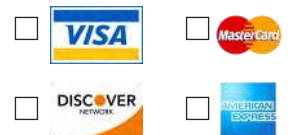
229 newcomers were connected with volunteer cultural companions, host homes, and good neighbor teams.

I'd like to continue to support the work of World Relief Seattle with a gift of \$ _____

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Billing address



Card number _____

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World Relief Seattle
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Kent, WA 98032
 or give online at worldreliefseattle.org

This is a recurring gift. Please charge my card on the 20th of each month.

Please send me a copy of World Relief Seattle's 5-year strategic plan!